

## HAMNET BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY 3 APRIL 2005

HAMNET is the Official Emergency Communications network of the South African Radio League that provides emergency communication to local, regional and national authorities, when requested to do so.

Bulletin compiled and prepared by Francois ZS6BUU

IN THE BULLETIN TODAY:-

BULLETINS AROUND THE COUNTRY PROVINCIAL DIRECTOR VACANCIES GAREC JUNE CONFERENCE EMERGENCIES AROUND THE GLOBE RETURNED E-MAIL FINAL COMMENT

### HAMNET BULLETINS AROUND THE COUNTRY

KZN Sunday morning at 07H00 on their local VHF repeaters with a relay on 7.070MHz. KZN also have a Wednesday evening call-up and meeting on their 2M repeater system.

The National Bulletin at 17H00 CAT on 7,070MHz in the 40M band with a relay on 145,700MHz in the greater Johannesburg area.

The Gauteng North bulletin will follow immediately after the National Bulletin on 145,725MHz in the Pretoria area on Sundays.

North West Province have a club bulletin on Mondays, which includes a Hamnet segment at 19H00 local on 3,750Mhz in the 80M band as well as their local repeater on 145.737.5Mhz.

Hamnet Western Cape Province meets on Wednesdays at 20H30 local on 145:700MHz, relayed on 3,674MHz.

The HAMNET Bulletin is sent to all those of whom I have an e-mail address and also sent out on packet by Rudi, ZS6DX.

Please note, this bulletin is available for download from the web site of the SARL under the heading "HAMNET".

### PROVINCIAL DIRECTOR VACANCIES

At the time of compiling this Bulletin, two Provincial Directors have indicated that they would like to step down.

We wish to thank Sarel Rossouw, ZS6APO, previous director for Gauteng South and Roy Martin, ZS6HH, previous director for Gauteng North, for the work they did over the years.

Both indicated that they will continue to stay on as active Hamnet members and will quite willing to report to the person or persons appointed to take their places.

This brings me to announce that one, possibly two vacancies exist within the Gauteng Province.

In the past, simply because of its size and density of population, two directors were appointed. I would like nominations from both Gauteng North and Gauteng South to fill these vacancies. On the other hand, if there is one person who would like to fill the position to handle both the areas, that nomination will also be considered.

My criteria for this position are the following. A person who has been a member of Hamnet for at least 5 years, holds a ZS licence with CW capabilities, possibly retired and who is capable of working a station from home, from a vehicle and can erect and man a field station.

For more information, or if you wish to discuss the vacancy with me, please feel free to phone me at 011 679 5260 or 083 585 3847 or you can contact me via e-mail at [zs6buu@uskonet.com](mailto:zs6buu@uskonet.com)

#### GLOBAL AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY CONFERENCE

Under the auspices of the International Amateur Radio Union, a two day conference is to be held in Tampere in Finland. I have had a large number of people who indicated that they would like to see Hamnet represented at that conference.

The first Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference or GAREC for short, will take place on the 13th and 14th of June and Hamnet will not only be attending, but have also indicated to the organisers that we would like to deliver a presentation on our set-up here in Southern Africa.

I obtained permission from Council and Arthur Bradshaw of the South African Search & Rescue to attend this Conference and will be making use of at least one of Arthur's slides to show where Hamnet fits into the disaster management system in South Africa.

This is also a golden opportunity to get first hand data, information and feedback from disasters around the Globe as the ARRL, RAYNET, TRAC (Turkey) and by request, from other countries who will be delivering papers.

I intend to gather as much information and establish as many contacts as I possibly can from the various delegates. On return to South Africa, I will compile a presentation which I will then present to various Hamnet Indaba's around the country over a period of time.

All data will eventually be available either directly from me, via the SARL Website or on a Compact Disc for reference.

To the best of my knowledge, this is the first time that HAMNET will participate in a major International conference on Emergency Communication. The conference itself has also been designed to establish once and for all, the usefulness, effectiveness and necessity of the amateur radio frequencies in times of disasters locally and around the world.

#### EMERGENCIES AROUND THE GLOBE

The Relief Website on the Internet has undergone a major upgrade and is much easier to read and understand. Disaster and emergencies around the world has been given a better layout and even maps in PDF format are now available to highlight problem areas.

At any time of the day, week or month, emergencies are updated with result that almost on an hourly basis; one can obtain and update the latest disaster situation. They have now gone so far as to request your e-mail address as a provider of relief (like emergency radio communication) should an emergency occur in your area, so you could be informed of the situation.

At the time of compiling this Bulletin, The Cook Islands were hit by cyclone Percy around mid March. It has left a trail of destruction across the Island and relief operations have been mobilised to assist the Islanders.

The 8.7 on the Richter scale quake in South East Asia, west of an Island called Nias, caused severe damage to the Island itself, causing power cuts, water shortages and telephone lines down.

This quake, although not far behind the 9.1 of December 26th, was more of a plate movement on the seabed, causing a massive tremor which caused many to panic, tsunami warnings to be issued and buildings to collapse.

Clearing-up operations are still on the go at this moment.

Also in March, Bangladesh had a tornado, Afghanistan had a flood, Angola had floods, Siberia and Montenegro had severe snowfalls, Madagascar had floods, Turkey had yet another earthquake, locust swarms are still a major problem in north Africa and Pakistan had both heavy rains and snowfalls.

Even the Stilfontein earthquake had a mention on the relief website.

For those interested, the website can be accessed at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int) If you dig very deep into the web, there is a host of other interesting information.

#### RETURNED E-MAIL

I realise that situations sometimes necessitates changing your e-mail service provider, either due to poor service, overloading or change of occupation.

Lately I have had a regular number of returned e-mails when I send out the monthly Bulletin.

Please note that as from April, I will keep a record of returned e-mails and if the same problem occurs two months later, your name will be taken off the list as a Hamnet member and your data stored in a dormant file.

It has become necessary to take this action, as more and more Government and NGO s are beginning to rely on us for alternative means of communication and if your e-mail, telephone and cell number has changed, your Provincial Director or I cannot get in touch with you.

Please regard HAMNET as one of the first to be notified when anything about the way we can maintain contact with you, has undergone a change!

#### FINAL COMMENT

Internationally, all amateur bands are partitioned by the IARU to ensure that all modes of communication are catered for over the spectrum of any band allocated for Amateur Radio operators.

This applies not only to HF but also to VHF and UHF bands.

I wish to bring this to the attention of the ZR and ZU operators who have been given the privilege to operate in various segments of the amateur radio frequency spectrum that Morse code or CW is still being practised by many operators, and will be around for many years to come.

Although the new Regulations allocated various frequencies for your use, please remember that the bottom segment of any spectrum is designed for CW, RTTY, Packet and other modes of communication, but NOT for phone communication.

As an example, the 40M Band runs from 7,000 to 7,100. From 7,000 to 7,045 is allocated to the above mentioned means of communication and the phone segment only starts from 7.045 to 7,100.

Please consult with your Clubs and Branches for clarity on the various band segments.

Your cooperation in this regard will be appreciated.

That is all for today.

Bulletin ends.